

4th Brigade, 95th Division (IT)

“THE CONNECTION”

8020 Army Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

This is an authorized unofficial 4th Brigade bulletin

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BRIGADE COMMANDER

I am happy to report that we are doing very well in our efforts to achieve Accreditation this year. Most of our IDT inspections are complete and 8th Battalion has its AT evaluations complete. The Ft Hood RTSM has been accredited, we have been given a verbal on the 8th. The 7th and 9th have AT further evaluations that will not be complete until later this summer. Results to date have been very positive. I am very pleased with the effort the leadership of the units as well as our Title XI has expended in this effort. Keep it up as we finish of the final portion of this endeavor

Now, some challenges. We still need to improve our attention to detail. This pertains primarily to the leadership of the Brigade, but all contribute. Suspense's initiated by the Division and Brigade are not being completed on time and in many cases with much follow up from Brigade staff. I would ask everyone to take serious due dates on various projects you are assigned. An example is NCOERs. Those responsible for NCOERs will be rated themselves on how well you do in completing these for your soldiers on time. A late NCOER means that another soldier (in most cases an NCO) is NOT taking care of soldiers. Take this seriously. A second very important suspense is annual training reports. For each two-week cycle, a report is required at the beginning, mid week and at the end of the cycle. To date we have been inconsistent in completing this report. The leadership of the Battalions is expected to complete this Division report and have it on hand for visitors to the site – such as myself or the CG. The senior leadership of the Brigade has been reminded several times of this requirement.

On a positive note, the 7th Brigade has Administrative teams this year to help in-processing of our soldiers at AT in additions to their ongoing logistical support. Reports are very positive on these teams. We need to fully integrate this valuable resource into our future planning.

INSTRUCTOR TRAVEL DURING IDT

I have developed a tentative plan on this issue. The bottom line is that for TY 02 we will significantly reduce our Instructor travel which was of 200K IN TY01. Some key points are: we will actively recruit instructors who live within 50 miles of the teaching sites, instructor vacancies will be advertised primarily in areas where we do not have local instructors, soldiers will be required to stay in military billets if available, car pooling will be required as practical, only minimum instructors to meet POI instructor/student ratio will be paid. These measures are good business required by limited funds.

We will also require similar measures for annual training. I want to state that 100% of instructors will not be authorized to be paid POV for AT. Battalions will be expected to car pool and take other good budget measure to keep travel costs to a minimum. We will be putting the budget together for TY 02

over the next month, and the above policies will apply so we can meet our mission at the lowest possible cost.

COL TUTTLE

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

RESERVE RECRUITING IS GOING THROUGH A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

Most of the Army Reserve is unaware of the significant changes that are occurring in the Army recruiting arena. Effective October 1, 2001 the prior-service recruiting mission will no longer fall under U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USAREC), Fort Knox, Kentucky. The Under Secretary of the Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs has directed this change. The Chief, Army Reserve (CAR) who has accepted the mission from USAREC, the CAR will also be drawing back a significant number of Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) recruiters from the USAREC structure.

Nationwide, some 300 plus recruiters will transition from their current Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 79R and will be retrained as MOS 79V. Their missions will be multifaceted. They will have a significant part in recruiting our prior service military into our 95th Division units. The Non-Prior Service (NPS) recruiting mission will remain with our USAREC, AGR MOS 79R soldiers. A major reason for the change came about because of the failure of USAREC to fulfill this vital mission four out of the last five years. In fact, USAREC has failed in this mission 16 out of the 22 years since taken over recruiting for the Reserve in the late 70's.

How does this effect us? It has a significant impact on us. When you deal with USAREC recruiters in the future, they can only enlist privates, with one exception; that being a prior service military member that is totally discharged. The 79V AGR recruiters can only recruit an individual who has some form of a contractual obligation left, i.e. from the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) to Troop Program Unit (TPU) transfer.

It is critical that we identify who these 79V recruiters are and where they are located in the near future. We will develop a by name list with locations for our area/zone managers to work. Without personal established relationships, we will no longer have recruiters calling upon us for our needs—we will have to take our local needs to these new 79V recruiters up front. The majority of them will be assigned to the Regional Support Commands (RSCs) and not to organizations such as the 95th Division.

There are still a lot of unanswered questions and we will be issuing significant detailed guidance as this new mission unfolds.

“AN ARMY OF ONE” TAKES ON A NEW WEB-BASED APPROACH

For those of you who have not made a visit recently to goarmy.com, you will find a totally new page that changes weekly. The current highlight is six newly inducted soldiers going through basic training. Their progress can be traced as they pass from week zero to week nine.

Internet leads that come to recruiters across America on a daily basis pay high dividends. Of the qualified leads that agree to a face-to-face appointment, one in three joins America's Army!

Many veterans and soldiers are not happy with the *Army Of One* slogan and most have a total misconception of its meaning. The bottom-line up front is this—the slogan is not for us, it's for the 18-24 year old market looking for opportunities in life. Of the 10,000 18-24 year-old market group that was polled prior to the retirement of *Be All You Can Be* the majority responded that the words had no concrete meaning. In fact, the majority related it with a negative connotation as if it were their parents looking down their noses directing them. Their view of the Army was crawling around in the mud and being yelled at 24 hours a day.

The meaning behind the slogan is this—if I fail—then my whole team fails, because each soldier is a critical part of the team's success. *I Am An Army Of One*. Look at the Website and watch the commercials. Listen to the words and you will see the true meaning behind the message.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GRIMES

BRIGADE S1

MEETING QUALIFICATIONS FOR TPU OFFICER PROMOTIONS

As a TPU officer, you must follow the chain of command for all actions pertaining to promotion beginning with your unit administrator. The unit administrator forwards your documents to the Regional Support Command (RSC) or Direct Reporting Command (DRC), who then forwards it to AR-PERSCOM.

Any documents or calls not following the process are referred to the appropriate RSC/DRC. Once promotion memorandums and delayed promotion actions are issued, AR-PERSCOM forwards them through the chain of command to you. AR-PERSCOM verifies all promotion criteria by using the Total Army Personnel Database-Reserve (TAPDB-R).

As a soldier to be considered for promotion, you need to ensure TAPDB-R accurately reflects your data. If you do not meet a requirement(s), you must take action to meet the requirements(s) prior to release of the promotion board.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS MUST BE MET

Position - You must be assigned to a valid higher grade position. (Exceptions: Some AMEDD officers may be promoted one or two grades lower; Chaplains may be assigned to a position one grade lower; and JAG officers may be promoted one grade lower, provided TJAG provides approval.

Physical Exam - You must have a physical exam on record within 5 yrs of the date of promotion.

Annual Physical Fitness Test (APFT) - You must pass the APFT within 12 months of the date of promotion. This is waived only if you possess a medical profile that precludes you from taking a regular or alternate APFT, and that your last APFT was not expired or failed at the time the profile was in effect.

Height and Weight Standard - You must meet weight standards as prescribed by AR 600-9 within 12 months of the date of promotion.

Security Clearance - You must possess as a minimum, Secret clearance. AMEDD Officers, Chaplains and JAG officers must possess at least a favorable National Agency Check. A Secret security clearance is valid for 10 years. (Based on the volume of expired clearances, promotion screening will ignore the date of clearance and will only check for the presence of a clearance until 1 October 2000.)

Reinvestigations should immediately be requested for all Secret clearances more than 10 years old.

Flag - You cannot be promoted if you have any flagged entry in the database.

If you are unable to locate a valid higher grade position, you may request a delay of promotion. You may request this up to one year from the date the promotion board is released, or one year from your promotion eligibility date, whichever is later. You may also decline promotion; however, a declination serves as a first or second non-selection for promotion. If you are unable to locate a valid higher grade position, or do not request a delay of promotion, or do not want to decline a promotion, Army Regulations require you be transferred to the IRR and be promoted as an IRR soldier.

If all eligibility criteria are met, your promotion memorandum is issued on the official release date of the board results. The effective date of promotion is the date the board is approved by the President. If eligibility requirement(s) are not met on the date the board is released, the effective date of promotion is the date you meet all qualifications or for colonels, the date the Senate confirms the list.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should I send a letter to the President of the board?

Yes. The letter shows that you are interested in your career. Keep it short; no more than one page.

Should I send a current photo?

Yes. Send a current photo, the more recent, the better. On the back of the photo, legibly write your height and weight data, date and signature.

If I do not see a document in my file that should be included in my promotion packet. Should I send a copy in with the letter to the President of the board?

Yes. Your board file must be accurate and reflect the total soldier.

Do records I send to the President of the board ever get to my PERMS record?

Your promotion file is separate from your PERMS file and the records sent into board don't automatically get added to your PERMS. You must send in another copy to your PMO under separate cover and request that the documents be placed in PERMS record.

Can I send in my award certificates to the board, or must I send the DA Forms 638(s)?

The award certificate is sufficient if it lists the award number.

Will I keep going up for colonel even if I have been passed over more than once?

As long as you have sufficient time remaining in service, you will be re-boarded for colonel each year.

How many times can I go before a promotion board for each grade?

Normally, 1LTs, CPTs and MAJs will only go before a promotion board twice. A First Lieutenant or Captain non-selected for promotion to the next higher grade twice will be separated no later than (NLT) the 1st day of the seventh month after the month in which the promotion list is approved. A Major twice non-selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel will be separated on the first day of the month after the month in which the officer completes 20 years of commissioned service or NLT the first day of the seventh month after the month in which the promotion list is approved, whichever is

later. A Lieutenant Colonel reaches mandatory separation and must be separated NLT the first day of the month after the month in which the officer completes 28 years of commissioned service.

Once the board convenes, how long until the results will be released?

The release of board results usually occurs within six months.

How can I find out if I was selected for promotion?

You can link to the [PERSCOM](#) web site and then look up your board results. You can contact your PMO. If your PMO has access to Soldier Management System (SMS) at AR-PERSCOM, the board results are in SMS under Views - Promotion Board Data

In next month's edition, I will cover Enlisted Promotions.

MAJ PETERSON

BRIGADE S3

TRAINING

HQ, 4th BDE (CSS) requires training schedules 120 days out. Commanders must post training schedules at their unit 90 days out. Fax changes and/or updates to CPT Boyer immediately following drill. Informal changes (e.g. handwritten) are acceptable.

The APFT is now an annual requirement for record. The weigh-in remains a semi-annual requirement for record. APFT and weight control personnel are REQUIRED to flag soldiers who fail or fail to take the record APFT or weigh-ins. Update RLAS NLT 30 April 2001.

OPERATIONS AND PLANS

The next brigade conference call is scheduled for 19 1400 May 2001.

Accreditation for the 4th BDE battalions is currently underway. There is a 91% success (GO) rate for IDTs and a 100% success (GO) rate for Annual Training.

Make sure you are working on MOB Binders!

156Rs for FY03 are due 220 days priors to training.

HQ, 4th BDE (CSS) requires a copy of the appointment orders for Safety Officers / NCOs. These appointment orders were required NLT 2 April 2001. Commanders should expect to receive an email if these have not been received by 4 May 2001.

The Scheduling of Annual Standard Army Safety and Occupational Health Inspections (SASOHI) is published. The following units are scheduled for inspection in the upcoming months: RTSM (4 June 2001).

1010Rs need to be input in a timely manner, as it is an USARC requirement.

LTC SCHUH

BRIGADE S4

ISSUE OF BLACK BERETS

The issuance of the black berets is on hold until further notice. It appears we will miss our target date of June 14, 2001, due to the fact that we will be inspecting the berets already shipped and received and returning any foreign-made berets to the manufacturer. Further information on the issue will be disseminated once it is received. Further, SGM Pittman, from 95th Division, has informed me that officers will receive two issued berets therefore, it will not be necessary to purchase one at AAFES.

VEHICLE STICKERS AT CARSWELL JRB

If you don't have a sticker for your POV and need one to get into Carswell JRB, the routine is the usual one as at every base. You need proof of insurance, registration, ID Card, and now, you actually need the vehicle at the registration office. A member of the office actually will place the sticker on your POV. It must be dry weather and above 50 degrees or else they won't issue the sticker. It seems that some service-members have been abusing the privilege and now the Navy is getting tough by requiring the vehicle to be there, with the service-member present. You can no longer pick up the sticker to adhere it to your vehicle later.

LAPTOP COMPUTER SECURITY

I was reading that in the area of business theft, the #1 item being stolen today is not pens, pencils or other supplies, it's laptop computers. We've already had a laptop stolen from the vehicle of one of our soldiers this year and unless we are careful, it's bound to happen again. Some tips on theft and damage prevention:

1. When traveling, if you must carry your laptop with you, use a briefcase or other piece of luggage that is not a laptop carrier or appears to be a laptop carrier. I usually use an overnight rolling bag that looks like it's carrying clothing.
2. When going through airport checkpoints, wait until the person in front of you has cleared the metal detector before placing your bag in the scanner. This way, you can walk through and get to the other side of the scanner before the bag gets through.

If traveling with someone else, let them go through first before putting any bags through the scanner and wait until they've cleared the metal detector before placing your bags through.

3. Thieves work in pairs. One will go through the metal detector and the second will follow. The second will cause the metal detector to sound off, holding up the people behind him. While you are being held up, the first thief is off with your bag. If you are ever held up for any reason and your bag is through the scanner, quickly ask for a manual scan and keep your eyes on your bags.
4. **Computers in vehicles** – If you can avoid it, do not leave your laptop in any vehicle. If you must, then place it out of sight, in the trunk. If it is warm outside, **never** leave your laptop in any vehicle as the temperature will rise high enough in the vehicle to permanently damage the computer, by melting it.

PROPER WEAR OF THE NEW ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS UNIFORM (APFU)

If you've already acquired the new APFU and wear it on duty days (for whatever reason), here is the policy for wearing the uniform correctly:

1. T-Shirt and shorts: T-shirt is always tucked in.
2. Sweatsuit: If you must wear the sweatsuit, you must wear it completely and have the jacket zipped up. It is improper to wear just the pants or the jacket. If it is cold enough to wear the jacket, the logic goes, it is cold enough to wear the pants.
3. It is improper to mix parts of the old APFT uniform with the new APFT uniform.

MAJ SORIANO

REGISTER TODAY TO LEND YOUR SKILLS TO THE USAR!

Highly recommend all soldiers to the Citizen Soldiers Skills web site at www.citizen-soldier-skills.com and complete all sections. With this information decision makers at all Army levels will know what you as a citizen soldier can and are willing to do above and beyond what your unit will require you to do. A bit more information about this can be found on page 20 of the April 2001 issue of the Voice of the Double Eagle.

LTC HALL

UPCOMING DINING-OUT

Early in September, the brigade will be hosting a Dining-Out. In the last issue of "The Connection" we mentioned how the term "Dining-In" came about. At a dining-in, it is traditional to have a multitude of toasts. This tradition was started by British regiments, in order to have its officers declare loyalty to the King or Queen. As you will see, we start our toasts with a toast to "the United States of America" and work our way down the national protocol roster. There was once was a regiment that had only two surviving members. They decided to have a dining-in and when it came time to toast, it went something like this: "Mr. President, the Queen; Mr. Vice, the Queen."

The Dining-In has a President and a Vice-President, called Mr/Madame Vice. The President is usually the unit commander and Mr/Madame Vice is usually the lowest-ranking officer in the unit. Mr/Madame Vice is charged with maintaining order at the dining-in and making sure all the rules of the mess are observed. Members of the mess (the guests) are charged fines for rules infractions. We'll talk about the rules in next month's issue...